

February 15, 2009

National Trust Awards Coordinator
National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington DC 20036

Re: Globe Mills: National Preservation Award Candidate

I have been a preservation activist in the city of Sacramento for the past twenty-five years and currently serve on the city's Preservation Commission. For ten years (1994 through 2003) I put on a bus tour, called the Fainted Ladies Tour, to bring attention to Sacramento's historic buildings that were in danger of demolition due to neglect. For ten years the Globe Mills was on that tour and was among the most endangered buildings in Sacramento.

The Globe Mills sat vacant and decaying from 1969 until the current rehab began. It suffered a series of fires, the worst and final one in 1994. After that fire, the City Fire Department and even the then Design Review Preservation Board recommended its demolition. The City Council came close to agreeing, but decided to give it one more chance and put out a bid to see if anyone could secure and stabilize it at an affordable price. One of the City's best preservation contractors, Bruce Booher was the successful bidder and did the work. He, project developers Cyrus Youssefi and Skip Rosenbloom and project architect Michael Malinowski are all preservation heroes.

The funding for the Globe Mills was very difficult to put together and came from a variety of sources: redevelopment funds, preservation tax credits, affordable housing tax credits (for the portion of the project that is new construction) and private money. It took months of public hearings and great effort to finally get all the funding in place and secure the necessary approvals.

The rehabilitation of the Globe Mills was done in an extremely sensitive manner that more than meets the Secretary of Interior Standards. It is an outstanding adaptive reuse of a wonderful old building. The new construction adjacent to it is well designed and compliments it.

This wonderful project has not only saved one of Sacramento's most significant landmark buildings, but has also turned around a very blighted section of one of the city's major streets. Its rehabilitation has led to the rehabilitation of other, once blighted, historic buildings nearby.

I strongly recommend the Globe Mills for an award. It is one of the most significant rehabilitation projects I have seen in all my years of activism and it has made a huge difference for the street and neighborhood in which it is located.

Sincerely,

Karen Jacques